

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I remind hon. members we have only 20 minutes today for the question period, and I see at least 40 members standing. Obviously, many will be disappointed.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Can the Prime Minister advise whether it has been made a condition of the announcement with regard to this heavy water plant in Quebec that there will be an announcement of plans for Manitoba and that one of the conditions to be included shall be the resignation of the Minister of National Defence?

Mr. Speaker: A question asked in those terms is obviously not in order.

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INCOME TAX**SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF FAST WRITE-OFF PROVISIONS AND REDUCTION IN CORPORATE RATE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In view of evidence that corporate profits in 1973 are going up at a faster rate than the cost of living, the consumer price index for food, wages and what have you, is the minister in his next budget planning to eliminate the fast write-off provisions and bring the corporate tax rate back to the level at which it stood a year ago?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that, of course, is a budgetary matter. I ought to indicate to the hon. member that as a result of the corporate tax reductions and the healthy profit picture, the capital intentions for business equipment and plant were raised by 19 per cent this year over last.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

NEED FOR ACTION TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE PROFITS

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto Lakeshore): I have a supplementary question arising from the Minister's answer and assurances which the Prime Minister gave to the House on more than one occasion to the effect the government would contemplate whatever steps were required to protect the consumer from being gouged in the market place. In view of that statement and assurance, and in view of the evidence of rising corporate prices, can the minister indicate what concrete steps are being planned to prevent excessive profits being made?

Mr. Speaker: I say, with respect to the hon. member, that the information he is seeking ought normally be given to the House by way of a statement on motions.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**FEED GRAINS—INQUIRY AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Considering that all farmers and stock breeders of eastern Canada, and specially those of the province of Quebec, have been waiting since the end of September for a statement from the minister in respect of the average price of feed grains, is he now in a position to inform this House when he will make such a statement?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I believe the prices have been announced. The minister in charge of the wheat board can perhaps elaborate on that.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD**POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SALARY OF CHAIRMAN—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In light of the announced policy to reduce government expenditures and the fact that the Food Prices Review Board has exceeded its budget by about \$470,000, presumably because of inflation, is the chairman of that board one of those persons at deputy minister level whose salary the government intends to increase?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is correct that the board has exceeded its budget. It submitted a preliminary budget for the fiscal year. Then, it submitted a further budget and that is under study. With regard to the question of salary, that is a matter for cabinet in the same way other similar points are for cabinet.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Will the minister consider putting the board members on a nutritional food budget that will not exceed \$3 a week?

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● (1450)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING FORCES—ALLEGED OBJECTION OF SOVIET UNION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the Soviet Union has raised objection to the participation or inclusion of Canadians in the United Nations Middle East Emergency Force.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the ambassador of the Soviet Union